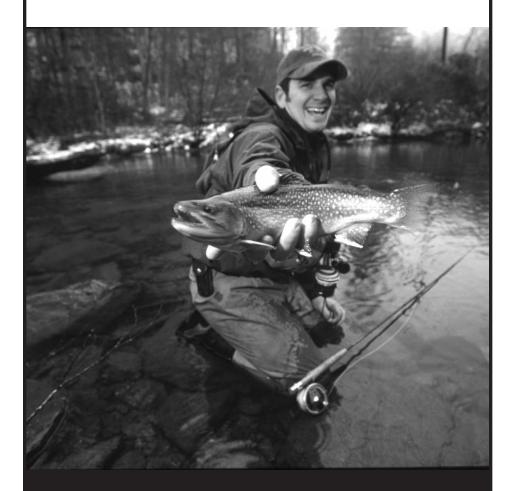


Public Hearings

Applying to 2010–2011
Fishing, Hunting & Trapping Seasons



January 2010

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission www.ncwildlife.org

State of North Carolina

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dee Freeman, Secretary

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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Mitch StClair, Sr., At Large
Gordon Myers, Executive Director





1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1701, (919) 707-0010 Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Thank you for attending this public hearing. By investing your time, you show your concern for fish and wildlife programs in North Carolina. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission welcomes your opinions and suggestions about these programs.

All state regulatory agencies must follow certain procedures that govern how rules are adopted. Public notice is required by publishing the proposed regulations in the *North Carolina Register.* A lengthy comment period follows, which includes these public hearings. These procedures are designed to give the proposed regulations wide public exposure and to offer the public opportunities to respond with support, opposition or suggestions.

For fish and wildlife regulations, this process begins at the previous year's hearings and continues throughout the year. We consider all suggestions presented to us during the past year as starting points for these proposed regulations. As a result, the proposals presented in this document are a reflection of public, staff, and committee input. The commissioners approved these proposals for publication in the *North Carolina Register* and for presentation at these public hearings.

In March 2010, after considering comments from the public and consulting with staff, the Wildlife Resources Commission will make final decisions on the proposed regulations. The rules that are adopted will then be available in the *N.C. Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest* for 2010-2011. You can obtain a copy from your licensing agent in July.

We appreciate your participation and look forward to hearing your comments. With your help, we will provide the best possible fish and wildlife programs for your enjoyment today and in the future.

Sincerely,

Steve Windham, Chairman

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

To Sportsmen Attending Regulations Public Hearings

This booklet is designed to assist those in attendance at the public hearings in the nine wildlife districts. It contains a brief description of the major changes that the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is proposing.

Hearing Procedures

For a schedule of hearings visit our Web site, www.ncwildlife.org or call the Wildlife Resources Commission. Check ahead—a hearing may be rescheduled if inclement weather makes road conditions hazardous.

Please review the proposals in this booklet when you arrive and complete the record form if you want to comment. During the hearing, a Commission official will ask for your comments, opinions or suggestions. Your comments are welcome, and each will be considered. In the interest of time and fairness to others who want to speak, please be concise. We ask that your comments on each proposed change be confined to the period allotted for discussions of that proposal. Adequate time to discuss each proposal will be allowed before moving to the next item.

After the proposed changes contained in this booklet are discussed, time will be allotted to discuss other matters of interest that you may want to present to the Commission for consideration. We earnestly solicit your input toward better ideas for wildlife regulations. We also ask you to remember that changing regulations in the N.C. Administrative Code can be a lengthy process. It often takes more than one year to change regulations to include your proposals. These public hearings are, however, the proper starting point for your suggestions.

What Happens Next?

A written record of all public comments will be compiled and reviewed by Commission staff and by the commissioners. Your recommendations, biological information from field surveys, harvest records, changes in habitat, fish and game populations, breeding stocks, game lands use and other conditions that affect wildlife will be considered.

You are encouraged to speak at the public hearings or to write to the Commission, if you have recommendations. We will accept public input about changes to the 2010-2011 fishing, hunting and trapping regulations until the close of the public comment period on Jan. 22, 2010. You can also comment on regulation proposals during the comment period on the Commission Web site, www.ncwildlife.org.

The Part that Hearings Play

The Commission has been charged with managing North Carolina's wildlife resources since 1947. Setting forth rules is one means by which we manage those resources to serve the recreational and economic interests of the state's citizens. We rely on the public's cooperation and assistance in this endeavor. Thus, we urge you to participate in these public hearings and to submit your opinions, either verbally or in writing, to the staff of the Commission.

Proposed Schedule for the 2010 Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Public Hearings

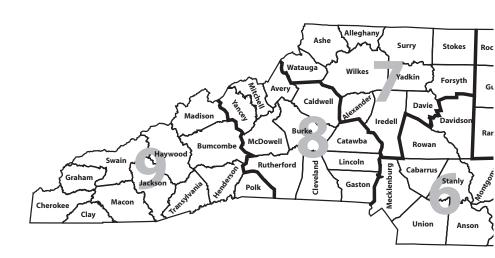
Before you make final plans to attend, check the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Web site for current updates, including weather-related rescheduling, at www.ncwildlife.org.

Hearing Time: 7 p.m.

Date	District	City	Location	
Mon., Jan. 4	4	Dublin	Bladen Community College	
Wed., Jan. 6	5	Graham	Graham Middle School Auditorium	
Thu., Jan. 7	6	Norwood	South Stanly High School	
Tue., Jan. 12	8	Morganton	Municipal Auditorium	
Wed., Jan. 13	9	Sylva	Southwestern Community College	
Thu., Jan. 14	7	Mount Airy	Mount Airy High School Auditorium	
Tue., Jan. 19	1	Edenton	Swain Auditorium	
Wed., Jan. 20	2	New Bern	Courthouse	
Thu., Jan. 21	3	Rocky Mount	Nash Community College	

Get N.C. Wildlife Update—news including season dates, bag limits, legislative updates and more—delivered to your Inbox from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Go to www.ncwildlife.org/enews.

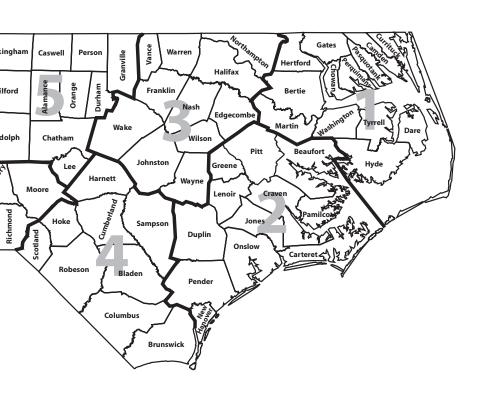
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Districts



Report Wildlife Violations

Toll-Free Number 1-800-662-7137

(In the Raleigh area, call: (919) 707-0040)



Proposed Changes in Fishing Regulations for 2010-2011

The following changes in the statewide fishing regulations are proposed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions and suggestions.

Game Fish

Trout

- **F1. Wildcat Lake (Avery County)** Classify this 13-acre lake as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.
- **F2.** Yadkin River (Caldwell County) Classify 2.0 miles of this river as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.
- **F3. Elk Hollow Branch (Avery County)** Classify 1.8 miles of this stream as Wild Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposals F1 – F3 provide additional public mountain trout fishing opportunities under the Hatchery-Supported and Wild Trout waters programs.

F4. Bluff Branch (Clay County) – Reclassify a 1.4-mile section of this stream from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposal F4 will better protect the stream's reproducing rainbow trout population.

F5. Franks Creek (Graham County) – Reclassify from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposal F5 will better protect the stream's reproducing rainbow trout population. Also, allowing the use of natural bait will be consistent with regulations on adjoining undesignated private waters.

F6. Tellico River (Cherokee County) – Reclassify the Wild Trout/Natural Bait section to Wild Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposal F6 will simplify rules by classifying all waters in this area as Wild Trout Waters.

- **F7. South Toe River (Yancey County)** Reclassify the headwaters section from Wild Trout to Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters.
- **F8. South Toe River (Yancey County)** Reclassify the Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only section to Wild Trout Waters.
- **F9. Upper Creek (Yancey County)** Reclassify from Catch-and-Release/Artificial Lures Only to Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters.

F10. Lower Creek (Yancey County) – Reclassify from Catch-and-Release/Artificial Lures Only to Wild Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposals F7 – F10 simplify regulations for the upper South Toe River watershed located on Pisgah National Forest game lands and will increase the opportunity to harvest trout near a campground. Headwaters of the South Toe River, including Upper Creek, will be managed as Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters, and the adjacent downstream section, including Lower Creek, managed as Wild Trout Waters. The Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters section downstream of this area will be unaffected by these changes.

F11. Nantahala River and tributaries (Clay and Macon counties) – Remove the exception that allows fishing during the closed season on Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters upstream of Nantahala Lake.

Justification: Proposal F11 will simplify rules by making the fishing season consistent with other Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters in the area.

F12. West Fork Pigeon River (Haywood County) – Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as Tom Creek.

Justification: Proposal F12 will reclassify the upper 3.7 miles on this river from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout Waters and will better protect its wild brown trout population. The lower 1.7 miles will remain Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

- **F13.** (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson County) Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as Rocky River Lane.
- **F14.** Fires Creek (Clay County) Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area footbridge.
- **F15.** Cartoogechaye Creek (Macon County) Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as the downstream US 64 bridge.
- **F16.** Wilson Creek (Caldwell County) Identify the upstream boundary of Public Mountain Trout Waters as the game land portion downstream of Lost Cove Creek.
- **F17. North Pacolet River (Polk County)** Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as Joels Creek.

Justification: Proposals F13 – F17 will clarify boundary locations.

F18. Spring Creek (Madison County) – Identify the downstream boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as USFS Road 223.

Justification: Proposal F18 will remove 3.7 miles of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters in a gorge section inaccessible to trout stocking that contains a small-mouth bass fishery. The remaining 6.0 miles of Hatchery-Supported Waters will better reflect those waters stocked with trout. Tributaries of the eliminated section on game lands will become Wild Trout Waters.

- **F19. Mineral Creek (Buncombe County)** Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
- **F20.** Thorps Creek (Caldwell County) Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

Justification: Proposals F19 and F20 will remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private lands. Sections on game lands will become Wild Trout Waters.

- **F21. Crab Creek (Alleghany County)** Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
- **F22.** Laurel Branch (Alleghany County) Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
- **F23. Sawyer Creek (Graham County)** Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
- **F24.** Fork Creek (Polk County) Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
- **F25. Big Fall Creek (Polk County)** Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

Justification: Proposals F21 – F25 remove streams from the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation that are on private lands and have limited public fishing access and angling opportunity.

F26. Statewide – Allow non-trout species to be taken and possessed when fishing by rod and reel on Catch-and-Release/Artificial Lures Only and Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout waters.

Justification: Proposal F26 will allow additional opportunities to harvest non-trout species when found in catch-and-release only trout waters.

F27. Statewide – Delete the text stating that unclassified tributaries to Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters default to Wild Trout Waters regulations.

Justification: Proposal F27 is a correction of rule text.

Black Bass

F28. B. Everett Jordan and Falls of Neuse reservoirs – Establish a 14-inch minimum size limit and a five-fish-daily creel limit for largemouth bass, including two fish that may be less than 14 inches long.

Justification: Proposal F28 reduces the minimum size limit from 16 to 14 inches and allows anglers to keep two fish less than 14 inches long within the five-fish-daily creel limit. Bass in these reservoirs are slow growing, and additional harvest is intended to improve the population's size structure.

F29. Lake Norman – Establish a 14-inch minimum size limit and five-fish-daily creel limit for spotted bass, including two fish that may be less than 14 inches long.

Justification: Proposal F29 will standardize regulations for spotted bass and largemouth bass. These species hybridize in the lake, and this will eliminate the need for anglers to distinguish them.

Striped Bass

F30. Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir – Allow striped bass of any size to be harvested from June 1 through Sept. 30 within the four-fish-daily creel limit.

Justification: Proposal F30 will allow anglers to keep up to four striped bass of any size per day during the period when striped bass are subject to high catch-and-release mortality rates.

Roanoke and Rock Bass

F31. Establish an eight-inch minimum size limit and two-fish-daily creel limit for Roanoke and rock bass in combination east of Interstate 77.

Justification: Proposal F31 will help protect Roanoke bass from over-harvest and eliminates the need for anglers to distinguish these similar species.

Muskellunge

F32. Statewide – Establish a 42-inch minimum size limit and one-fish-daily creel limit for muskellunge.

Justification: Proposal F32 increases the minimum size limit for muskie from 30 to 42 inches and will conserve spawning stock by protecting 4-5-year-old, sexually mature fish. This will also simplify regulations by standardizing them across state waters and with regulations for the New River in Virginia.

F33. French Broad River – Eliminate the current 46-inch size limit in favor of a new statewide regulation (F32).

Justification: Proposal F33 will decrease the size limit for muskie in the French Broad River from 46 to 42 inches and will standardize regulations statewide, while protecting sexually mature fish.

American Shad

F34. John H. Kerr Reservoir, Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir – Prohibit the possession of American shad.

Justification: Proposal F34 will protect American shad from harvest that are being stocked in the upper Roanoke River as part of a restoration project.

Nongame Fish

F35. Blue Crabs – Authorize the recreational take of blue crabs using a single, multiple bait line not to exceed 100 feet in length, that is under immediate control and attendance, and is limited to one line per person and no more than one line per vessel.

Justification: Proposal F35 will provide an additional way for recreational fishers to harvest blue crabs in inland waters. Crabs taken by this method may not be sold, and limits are 50 per person or 100 per vessel per day, with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).

F36. Grass Carp in Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir – Prohibit the take and possession of grass carp, except by a permit issued by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Justification: Proposal F36 will make Commission rules consistent with a recently passed state law (2009-261) prohibiting the possession of grass carp from these lakes, except by a permit issued by the Commission.

Other

F37. Specify that fish size and creel limits that differ from statewide regulations will be posted at Community Fishing Program and other cooperatively-managed waters. **Justification:** Proposal F37 is an administrative change that will facilitate the implementation and public notification of size and creel limits on intensively managed, public fishing waters.

Proposed Changes in Hunting and Trapping Regulations for 2010-2011

The following changes in the statewide hunting and trapping regulations are proposed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions or suggestions.

Bear

H1. Increase the December segment of the bear season in Hertford County from three days to two weeks using the same opening and closing dates as adjoining Gates and Bertie counties. (For 2010, the December segment dates would be Dec. 13-25.)

Justification: Although the majority of the bear harvest in Hertford County occurs in the eastern portions and southeastern corner of the county, there is a well-established bear population across most of the county. After slight harvest increases from 1996-2003, Hertford County showed a marked increase in the registered harvest between 2004-2008, ranging from 12-32 bears, with 32 bears registered in 2008, yielding an average harvest of 20 bears per year over the past five years. The annual registered harvest in Bertie County, the county to the south of Hertford, has averaged 50 bears per year over the past five years. Registered harvest in Gates County, the county to the east of Hertford County, averaged 51 bears per year over the past five years. This proposed regulation change would allow some increase in the annual number of hunter-harvested bears across Hertford County, while potentially decreasing bear roadkills and reducing crop depredation issues over time.

Trapping

H2. Remove state tagging requirements for otter and bobcats.

Justification: After the 2009-2010 trapping season, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will no longer issue Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tags to states, nor will they require states to use CITES tags to mark bobcat and otter that are sold and eventually exported from the United States. Without these federal tags, the only tagging requirement remaining for these species in North Carolina is state tags. The Commission does not need to continue to require state tags for bobcat and otter in order to monitor the harvest of these species. Removing the tagging requirement will simplify regulations and reduce requirements on trappers.

Small Game

H3. Allow armadillos to be hunted all year and trapped during the regular furbearer trapping season with no bag limits.

Justification: Although not common yet, these non-native mammals are starting to move into North Carolina from South Carolina. The proposed regulation change would allow for opportunistic taking of armadillos and reduce the need for depredation permits.

H4. Open squirrel season (red and gray) on the Monday on or nearest to Oct. 15 and close on the last day of February.

Justification: The Monday on or nearest to Oct. 15 has been the traditional opening day for hunting red and gray squirrels for many years. Extending the season to the last day of February aligns squirrel season with other small game seasons and provides additional hunting opportunities with no negative impact on the population. There have been numerous requests from sportsmen to keep the traditional opening day and extend the squirrel season to the end of February.

Birds

H5. Exclude the Eurasian collared dove — a non-native bird — from the definition of wild birds.

Justification: Birds legally defined as "wild birds" in North Carolina have certain protections. Removing these protections would allow hunters to legally shoot Eurasian collared doves, incidental to taking mourning doves.

Nongame

H6. Remove elk (*Cervus elephus*) from the state's list of Special Concern species. **Justification:** The only free-ranging population of elk in North Carolina was introduced by the National Park Service into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Park Service has indicated to the Commission that they will soon declare their elk-restoration project a success, and elk will no longer be an "experimental population." Because of the current status of the restoration effort and elk population in western North Carolina, the extra protections afforded Special Concern species are no longer necessary for elk.

Game Lands—General

H7. Provide the same game land access privileges to disabled sportsmen — hunters with the totally disabled license, the disabled veterans license or disabled sportsman hunt certification — as the Commission does to disabled access permit holders.

Justification: Currently only disabled access permit holders have access to disabled access blinds and may operate vehicles (including ATVs) on open-gated and ungated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic on game lands enrolled in the disabled access permit program (listed on page 57 of the 2009-2010 Regulations Digest). These disabled access permit holders have limited mobility as documented by a physician. Disabled sportsmen with limited mobility can apply for a disabled access permit, but not all disabled sportsmen have a mobility-based disability. This proposed regulation change will allow both groups the same access privileges.

H8. Increase access for disabled sportsmen and disabled access permit holders by allowing them to ride all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on roads posted for vehicular travel, except those roads maintained by the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT). Apply this increased access only to game lands designated as disabled access permit game lands (listed on page 57 of the 2009-2010 Regulations Digest).

Justification: Allowing this use will benefit those sportsmen when hunting on game lands. This proposed regulation change will eliminate some confusion concerning the roads and trails that are legally accessible with a disabled access permit or for disabled sportsmen.

- **H9.** Prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Brinkleyville Game Land. **Justification:** This game land is comprised of five small and distinct tracts surrounded by private land. The use of dogs to hunt deer impacts local residents surrounding the game land and has resulted in conflict among sportsmen.
- H10. Prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Brunswick County Game Land. Justification: This proposed regulation change has been requested by the land-owner, Resource Management Services.
- **H11.** Prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Embro Game Land. **Justification:** During the past hunting season, District 3 enforcement officers received numerous complaints from surrounding property owners and other hunters about dogs, and they issued many citations for trespassing and related issues associated with hunting deer with dogs on this game land.
- **H12.** Increase the either-sex deer season on Jordan Game Land from the current moderate season to the maximum season.

Justification: Increasing the either-sex season to maximum will align this game land with the county season, should not adversely affect the resource and provides increased opportunities to take antlerless deer.

H13. Open the Cooperative Upland habitat Restoration and Enhancement (CURE) areas within R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell and Sandhills game lands to permit-only quail and woodcock hunting.

Justification: The CURE areas on these game lands were closed to quail and woodcock hunting in 2001 in order to implement management plans. Extensive changes will be completed by fall of 2010, creating hundreds of acres of early-successional habitat ideal for quail and woodcock. Limited hunting by special permit will provide opportunities for sportsmen.

H14. Establish primitive campgrounds on Juniper Creek and Chowan Swamp game lands to be open from Sept.1 through the last day of February and again from April 7 through May 14.

Justification: Campgrounds benefit sportsmen who want to stay overnight on game lands. The proposed open dates coincide with the open campground dates on other game lands.

H15. Increase the bear season on an 8,000-acre portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County from the first three days of the December season segment (the current open season) to the full 12-day bear season allowed in the rest of Gates County during the month of December. The rest of Chowan Swamp Game Land would retain the first three days of the December season segment as its December bear season.

Justification: Most of the area east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River has extremely wet habitat and limited accessibility. This proposed regulation change would provide more opportunity for bear hunters willing to hunt in this type habitat. Several bear hunting groups have requested this change.

H16. Restrict dove hunting to permit-only during the first four days of the open dove season on Sandy Mush Game Land.

Justification: The Sandy Mush dove fields are heavily used by dove hunters during the first few open days of the dove season. Issuing permits is a reliable way to reduce crowding and address safety concerns.

- **H17.** Establish an introductory either-sex deer season on Sandy Mush Game Land. **Justification:** An introductory either-sex season will align the game land with the county season without a negative impact on deer.
- **H18.** Place the Morton Tract, on White Oak Game Land, under the same provisions as the Huggins Tract: a restrictive firearms zone; access on Sloan Farm Road by permit only; hunting by permit only; and no hunting for deer with dogs.

Justification: The 204-acre Morton Tract, a recent Coastal Federation acquisition and donation to the game lands program, has a common boundary with the Huggins Tract and will be managed using the same strategies and regulations. This proposed regulation change will provide consistency in management on the White Oak Game Land and in relationships with adjacent landowners.

H19. Create Pond Mountain in Ashe County as a six-day-per-week game land with a conservative either-sex deer season and allow horseback riding on designated trails May 16-Aug. 31.

Justification: The Commission is currently in the process of acquiring this 1,800-acre property in Ashe County for entry into the Game Lands Program.

H20. Create the Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen County as a permit-only game land.

Justification: This 1,400-acre tract was recently purchased with cooperative funding sources and is to be managed by the Commission as a game land. Its location, unique diversity, and existing road system will require careful and managed use of the many available resources. Permit hunts are recommended to manage hunter numbers.

- **H21.** Prohibit the release of domesticated or feral animals on game lands, except for hunting dogs where allowed. The Commission already prohibits the release of penraised animals, wild animals or birds and hatchery-reared fish on game lands.
- **H22.** Prohibit the release of all animals, including domesticated or feral animals, on wildlife conservation areas without prior written authorization of the Commission, except for hunting dogs where permitted.

Justification: Domesticated and feral animals on public lands pose a significant threat to native wildlife, notably songbirds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. They are also associated as being vectors of various diseases and parasites. Release of these animals, without the knowledge or permission of the Commission, is contrary to the agency's conservation goals.

Boating and Fishing Access Areas

H23. Prohibit the release and feeding of all animals, including domestic or feral animals, on boating or fishing access areas without prior written authorization of the Commission.

Justification: Domesticated and feral animals on public lands pose a significant threat to native wildlife, notably songbirds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. They are also associated as being vectors of various diseases and parasites. Release and feeding of these animals, without the knowledge or permission of the Commission, is contrary to the agency's conservation goals.

Permits and Licenses

H24. Require cities and towns that request a depredation permit for deer to submit a form supplied by the Commission, which will require answers to these and other questions: Has the municipality participated in the Urban Archery Season and if not, why not?

Justification: The Commission created the Urban Archery Season three years ago as another tool that municipalities can use in order to reduce deer numbers within their city limits. Because this tool is available, the Commission requires municipalities to attempt the Urban Archery Season before receiving a deer depredation permit. This proposed regulation change eliminates that requirement, but forces municipalities to justify their preference for a depredation permit over the Urban Archery Season as the tool they use to control deer numbers.

H25. Remove the requirement that waterfowl imported into North Carolina be tested for avian influenza and Exotic Newcastle disease. In lieu of that requirement, imported waterfowl must be from a National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)-certified facility or else tested using NPIP standards.

Justification: This proposal is part of an overall streamlining of the controlled hunting preserve, game bird propagation and importation permit process. The NPIP is a national program dedicated to improving and standardizing bird disease testing. The NPIP certification will simplify the importation process for both bird importers and Commission staff, while protecting native waterfowl from diseases.

H26. Remove the avian influenza and Exotic Newcastle disease testing requirements for game bird propagators and controlled hunting preserve operators.

Justification: This proposal is part of an overall streamlining of the controlled hunting preserve, game bird propagation and importation permit process. Currently most, if not all, in-state game bird propagators are enrolled in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) program through the N.C. Department of Agriculture. Game birds purchased from an in-state source should already have disease-free status under the NPIP.

H27. Require controlled hunting preserve operators to report the number of birds (quail, mallard ducks and all other domestically-raised game birds legal for the operator to release) and the counties where released before receiving a renewed license.

Justification: Currently, there is no mechanism for the Commission to collect this information. Knowing the numbers of released birds and locations will help biologists understand changes in local population abundance and may assist with disease investigations.

H28. Allow government or nonprofit entities conducting organized hunting events to obtain from the Commission (subject to the discretion of the Executive Director or his designee) exemptions that allow all participants in the events to hunt without first obtaining hunting licenses.

Justification: Legislation passed by the 2009 General Assembly gave the Commission the authority to allow individuals to hunt without a license during an organized hunting event. These events must be approved in advance by the Commission. In addition, all participants must:

- comply with hunter safety requirements or be accompanied by a properly licensed adult who maintains a proximity to the license-exempt individual, which enables the adult to monitor the activities of, and communicate with, the individual at all times
- report all big game harvested
- obtain a certificate of participation in federal Harvest Information Program, if hunting migratory game birds
- obtain a federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, if the participant is 16 years of age or older and hunting waterfowl.

H29. Amend the big game harvest regulation to remove language that states the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card shall be provided to license-exempt hunters free of cost

Justification: Legislation passed by the 2009 General Assembly established a \$10 fee for these report cards for all hunters. There was no exemption in the bill for license-exempt hunters. This proposed regulation change will make Commission regulations consistent with state law.

2010-2011 Season Dates

The Commission provides this table of upcoming season dates for planning purposes ONLY. Final season dates are published in the 2010-2011 Regulations Digest, available July 1, 2010.

Species	Open Dates		
Bear	Western Bear Season: Oct. 18—Nov. 20, 2010 and Dec. 13, 2010—Jan. 1, 2011 Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Jones, Pasquotank, Tyrrell, and Washington counties: Nov. 8-13, 2010 and Dec.13-25, 2010 Bertie, Currituck, Gates, and Perquimans counties (and Hertford County if H1 is adopted): Nov. 6-13, 2010 and Dec.13-25, 2010 Northampton, Halifax, and Martin counties: Nov. 8-13, 2010 and Dec.13-15, 2010 Southeastern counties: Nov. 8, 2010—Jan. 1, 2011 Brunswick and Columbus counties: Dec. 6-25, 2010 Greene, Lenoir and Pitt counties: Nov. 8-13, 2010		
Boar in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties (swine in other counties are feral)	Sept. 13, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011 hogs)		
Wild Turkey Spring Season	April 9—May 7, 2011 (bearded or male turkeys only)		
Wild Turkey Youth-Only Season	April 2, 2011 (bearded or male turkeys only)		
Raccoon and Opossum	Oct. 18, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011		
Squirrel	Gray and Red Squirrel: Oct. 18, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011 (if proposal H4 is adopted) Fox Squirrel: Oct. 18—Dec. 31, 2010 in selected counties		
Rabbit	Nov. 20, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011		
Quail	Nov. 20, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011		
Grouse	Oct. 18, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011		
Bobcat	Oct. 18, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011		
Fox	Jan. 1-22, 2011 (limited to certain counties)		
Crow	Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week between June 2, 2010, and Feb. 28, 2011 plus Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, July 4th, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day		
Pheasant	Nov. 13, 2010—Feb. 1, 2011		
Trapping	Dec. 1, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011 in and east of Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Pitt, Greene, Lenoir, Duplin, Pender and New Hanover counties Nov. 1, 2010—Feb. 28, 2011 in all other counties		

Deer Seasons

Locations	Type of Season and Dates		
Eastern	Bow and Arrow: *To be Determined (see below) Muzzleloading: *To be Determined (see below) Gun: Oct. 16, 2010—Jan. 1, 2011		
Central	Bow and Arrow: *To be Determined (see below) Muzzleloading: *To be Determined (see below) Gun: Nov. 13, 2010—Jan. 1, 2011		
Northwestern	Bow and Arrow:*To be Determined (see below) Muzzleloading: *To be Determined (see below) Gun: *To be Determined (see below)		
Western	Bow and Arrow:*To be Determined (see below) Muzzleloading: *To be Determined (see below) Gun: Nov. 22—Dec. 11, 2010		
Gun: Either-Sex Seasons	Introductory Season: Last open day of the applicable gun season. Conservative Season: Last six open days of the applicable gun season. Moderate Season: First six open days and last six open days of the applicable gun season. Maximum Season: All open days of the applicable gun season.		
Urban Deer Season (open in participating cities only; see 2010-2011 <i>Regulations Digest</i> for list)	Bow and Arrow: Jan. 15—Feb. 19, 2011		
Dismal Swamp, Mackay Island, Pocosin Lakes and Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuges	Gun Either-Sex: Sept. 11, 2010—Jan. 1, 2011		
Sunny Point, Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall Military Installatio	Gun Either-Sex: Oct. 16, 2010—Jan. 1, 2011		
Belews Creek	Special Either-Sex Youth Hunt: Oct. 2, 2010 (permit only)		
Mountain Island State Forest Special Either-Sex Youth Hunt: Oct. 16, 201 (permit only)			

^{*}On March 4, 2009 the Commission adopted regulation changes that would shorten the bow season across the state by one week and begin muzzleloading season one week earlier, thus creating a two-week muzzleloading season. Another adopted change is to extend the gun (all lawful weapons) season in the Northwestern deer season to end on Jan. 1. These changes to the muzzleloading season and the Northwestern gun season are waiting to be reviewed by the General Assembly in May 2010. Once the General Assembly completes its review, the Commission will provide dates to the public for the fall 2010 deer hunting season. We regret any inconvenience.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Big Game Harvests	-800-I-GOT-ONE		
(1-800-446-8663)		
Boat Registrations & Titles	-800-NCVESSEL		
	1-800-628-3773)		
Boating Access Areas	(919) 707-0150		
Boating Regulations	(919) 707-0040		
Boating Safety Classes	(919) 707-0031		
Educational Programs	(919) 707-0170		
Enforcement Operations	(919) 707-0030		
Fishing Regulations	(919) 707-0040		
Fisheries Programs and Research	(919) 707-0220		
Hunter Safety Courses.	(919) 707-0031		
Hunting Regulations	(919) 707-0040		
License Information/Purchases by Credit Card			
	1-888-248-6834)		
N.C. Wild Store Purchases	1-866-945-3746		
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (Saltwater)	1-800-682-2632		
No-Wake Zone Boating Regulations	(919) 707-0013		
Raleigh Sales Office Location	(919) 707-0391		
Violations of Boating, Hunting or Fishing Regulations	1-800-662-7137		
1-80	0-662-7137VTTY*		
Waterfowl Hunting Dates and Shooting Hours	1-800-675-0263		
Wildlife Calendar Purchases	1-866-945-3746		
Wildlife in North Carolina Magazine Subscriptions	1-866-945-3746		
Wildlife Management	(919) 707-0050		
Wildlife Service Agent Locations	1-888-248-6834		

 $[\]ensuremath{^{*}TTY}$ machine is available for callers with hearing impairments.

Additional Proposals From Sportsmen in Attendance

During this allotted time period, we welcome your comments toward needed changes in the fishing, hunting and trapping regulations.

Notes:

Purchasing Licenses or Magazine Subscriptions Using MasterCard or Visa

By calling 1-888-248-6834, you can use your MasterCard or Visa to purchase most hunting and fishing licenses. You can also call 1-866-945-3746 for a subscription to *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine. Have your credit card, a pen and paper handy before making the call.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576 www.ncwildlife.org Division of Inland Fisheries (919) 707-0220 Division of Wildlife Management (919) 707-0050 Gordon Myers, Executive Director

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Equal Employment Officer, 1703 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1703 Tel. (919) 707-0101.

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